GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6236
ANSWERED ON:12.04.2017
Digitization of Cable TV
Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether progress of Phase IV Digitization programme of Cable TV in rural areas of the country is unsatisfactory and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the details of the target fixed till February, 2017;
(c) the details of the reasons for shortfall in the target if any;
(d) whether the Government has considered to extend the cut off date for phase IV of Cable TV Digitization and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) whether the Government will allow further extension if target is not achieved and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING {COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a): Cable TV Digitization has been carried out in the country in four phases as per the Bill passed by both Houses of the Parliament in December, 2011.

A Set Top Box (STB) is now required by each subscriber to receive digital encrypted signals being carried over the cable networks. Digitization of the cable infrastructure, including supply of STBs, is being carried out by the cable operators as per the direction of the Government. Ministry, as a facilitator, has taken a number of initiatives including constitution of a Task Force, nomination of State and District Level Nodal Officers, operationalization of an exclusive website (www.digitalindiamib.com), a toll free help line (1800 180 4343), workshops/meetings with Nodal Officers, Management Information System (MIS) for collection of STBs installation progress and setting up of 12 Regional Units to achieve the goal of cable TV digitization.

Originally, the cut-off date for implementation of cable TV digitization in phase IV areas was 31.12.2014. It was modified to 31.12.2016. However, it had to be again modified to 31.03.2017 after the dismissal of cases filed in various High Courts wherein extension/stay was granted by some High Courts during implementation of Phase III.

Just before the cut-off date of 31.03.2017, the progress of installation of STBs was reviewed and considering that seeding of some STBs take place only after the cut-off date, the progress of seeding in Phase IV areas was found to be quite satisfactory.

(b) & (c): The target (cut-off date) to switch over to digital signals in Phase IV areas was fixed as 31.03.2017. No target was fixed for February, 2017.

(d) & (e): The Government has not allowed any further extension in the cut-off date of Phase IV of cable TV digitization. A Circular was issued on 30.03.2017 to all the stakeholders to ensure that no analog signals are transmitted over the cable networks in Phase IV areas after 01.04.2017, failing which action would be taken against the defaulters.

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